

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of determining the presence of a point of interest of an aldehyde in a test sample comprising the steps of:

reacting the aldehyde in the test sample with an amount of MBTH,  
5 wherein said amount is sufficient to react with the aldehyde to the point of interest to produce an azine;

oxidizing MBTH with an oxidant;

reacting the azine and the oxidized MBTH to form a formazan and  
produce a color change;

10 observing the color in the test sample after the above two reaction and oxidizing steps; and

determining the presence of an excess of aldehyde in the test sample to the point of interest by observation of the color of the test sample.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the color in the test sample is blue,  
15 green, yellow or any combination thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidant is selected from the group consisting of ferric chloride, potassium ferricyanide, lead tetraacetate and periodic acid.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidant is ferric chloride.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the aldehyde is glutaraldehyde.

20 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidant is mixed with the test sample at the same time as the MBTH reacts with the aldehyde.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidant is added to the test sample after the MBTH reacts with the aldehyde.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising drawing up a fixed volume of  
25 an aldehyde-containing test sample before or during the reaction of aldehyde with MBTH.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising loading the fixed volume to a measuring device having a gas or vapor permeable but liquid impermeable membrane.

30 10. The method of claim 8 further comprising loading the fixed volume to a measuring device containing said MBTH or  $\text{FeCl}_3$ .

11. The method of claim 8 further comprising applying the aldehyde in the test sample to an absorbent material.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the absorbent material is a nylon membrane.

5 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the absorbent material contains MBTH or  $\text{FeCl}_3$ .

10 14. A liquid measuring device comprising at least one compartment for determining the presence of a point of interest of an aldehyde in a test sample comprising a first compartment having a proximal and distal end which contains an amount of MBTH that reacts with a aldehyde in a first reacting step, wherein said amount is sufficient to react with the aldehyde to the point of interest.

15 15. The liquid measuring device of claim 14, wherein said first compartment further comprises an oxidant that reacts with the MBTH.

16 16. The liquid measuring device of claim 14 further comprising a second compartment in liquid communication with said first compartment by means of a valve.

17. The liquid measuring device of claim 16, wherein said second compartment contains an oxidant that reacts with the MBTH.

18. The liquid measuring device of claim 14 which is a syringe or pipet.

20 19. The liquid measuring device of claim 14 further comprising a gas or vapor permeable but liquid impermeable membrane between the proximal and distal end of the first compartment.

20. The liquid measuring device of claim 14 further comprising a filter at or near the distal end of the first compartment.

25 21. The liquid measuring device of claim 14 further comprising a valve at or near the distal end of the first compartment.

22. The liquid measuring device of claim 14 further comprising a needle assembly.

23. The liquid measuring device of claim 14, wherein the aldehyde is selected from the group consisting of glutaraldehyde and formaldehyde.

30 24. A test strip comprising at least one absorbent material for determining the presence of a point of interest of an aldehyde in a test sample comprising a first

absorbent material which contains an amount of MBTH that reacts with an aldehyde in a first reacting step, wherein said amount is sufficient to react with the aldehyde to the point of interest.

5           25.     The test strip of claim 24, wherein said first absorbent material further comprises an oxidant that reacts with the MBTH.

          26.     The test strip of claim 24 further comprising a second absorbent material containing an oxidant that reacts with the MBTH.

          27.     The test strip of claim 26, wherein said second absorbent material is separated from said first absorbent material with a separator.

10           28.     The test strip of claim 27, wherein said separator comprises a removable liquid impermeable film or a blank absorbent material.

          29.     The test strip of claim 24 further comprising an aldehyde tester.

          30.     The test strip of claim 29, wherein the aldehyde tester is a Schiff's reagent.

15           31.     The test strip of claim 24 further comprising a pH tester.

          32.     The test strip of claim 31, wherein the pH tester comprises a pH dye indicator selected from the group consisting of bromothymol blue, brilliant yellow, neutral red, rosolic acid, phenol red, 3-nitrophenol, orange II, phenolphthalein, o-cresolphthalein, nile blue A and thymolphthalein.

20           33.     The test strip of claim 24 further comprising at least one color comparator.